

PRESS RELEASE

December 14, 1990

MUSEUM'S FREE HOLIDAY FILM FESTIVAL PAYS TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSAL PICTURES; SEVEN FILMS FROM FIVE DECADES TO BE SCREENED DEC. 26-30

This year's Holiday Film Festival at The Cleveland Museum of Art pays tribute to Universal Pictures on the occasion of the film studio's 75th anniversary. Seven classic Universal films from five decades will be shown from December 26 to 30 at the Museum, 11150 East Boulevard in University Circle. Film descriptions and screening times are listed below. Admission to the Museum and to the film series is free.

The seven films represent major types of movies produced by the studio during its long history. Included are two classic horror films (one silent and one sound) from the 1920s and 1930s; a gangster movie and an exotic technicolor fantasy from the 1940s; a slickly-produced, sudsy, so-called "women's picture" from the 1950s; and a 1970s action comedy by Steven Spielberg, who got his start at Universal, where he later made both **Jaws** and **E.T.** Also featured is one of the most honored of all Universal pictures, the 1930 Oscar-winning **All Quiet on the Western Front**. All of the films will be shown in excellent 16mm and 35mm prints, some from U.S. film archives.

Wednesday, December 26, 2:00 pm

The Man Who Laughs, USA, 1928. Directed by Paul Leni. With Conrad Veidt and Mary Philbin. Silent with music track. B&W, 124 minutes. Victor Hugo's macabre tale of a young nobleman mutilated by political enemies so that his mouth is permanently fixed into a grotesque grin.

Bride of Frankenstein, USA, 1935. Directed by James Whale. With Boris Karloff, Colin Clive and Elsa Lanchester. B&W, 75 minutes. Spooky, witty, kooky classic about the creation of a mate for Frankenstein's famous monster. 35mm archive print from the Library of Congress.

Thursday, December 27, 2:00 pm

All Quiet on the Western Front, USA, 1930. Directed by Lewis Milestone. With Lew Ayres and Louis Wolheim. B&W, 125 minutes. Fully restored, original version of Erich Maria Remarque's classic, realistic story of the experiences of young German soldiers during WWI. 35mm archive print from The Museum of Modern Art.

Friday, December 28, 2:00 pm

The Killers, USA, 1946. Directed by Robert Siodmak. With Burt Lancaster, Ava Gardner and Edmond O'Brien. B&W, 105 minutes. Lean, taut crime drama in which investigators seek to discover why a man made no attempt to escape his murders.

Saturday, December 29, 1:30 pm

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, USA, 1944. Directed by Arthur Lubin. With Maria Montez and Jon Hall. Color, 87 minutes. Colorful adventure in which an ousted prince drives Mongol invaders from Baghdad.

Written on the Wind, USA, 1957. Directed by Douglas Sirk. With Rock Hudson, Lauren Bacall, Robert Stack and Dorothy Malone. Color, 99 minutes. Sumptuously shot soap opera about a Texas oil baron enmeshed in a complex love quadrangle.

Sunday, December 30, 3:30 pm

The Sugarland Express, USA, 1974. Directed by Steven Spielberg. With Goldie Hawn, Ben Johnson and Michael Sacks. Color, 109 minutes. A mammoth police chase ensues when a fugitive and his ditzy wife hijack a Texas police cruiser in a desperate attempt to retain custody of their infant son. 35mm print courtesy of Amblin Entertainment.

The Museum thanks Skip Lusk at Universal City Studios for his help in arranging this series.

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